

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.
THURSDAY, August 28, 1902.

CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

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The President and Mr. Reed.

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Mr. Reed's exit was not impressive. The opinion generally prevailed that he retired as a pet. He had lost the greatest of prizes—the presidency—and his interest in office and politics suddenly ceased. He is a good lawyer, and is said to be prospering in New York. But how little one associates such wit as his, and such talents for public affairs, with the humdrum of the court room and the occupation of piling up money? Will he ever reappear in the country's affairs? He is not an old man, and he has been out so short a time that the taste of office may still be strong in his mouth. Maybe the President's little jolly will set him to thinking and reawaken his old spirit.

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The Virginia Situation.

The November elections in Virginia will be the first to take place under the new state constitution. As the suffrage clause of that instrument was framed with a specific object in view, we may expect that object to be accomplished at this first trial. In fact, Senator Martin, who knows the state and the situation thoroughly, makes the prediction confidently that such will be the case. He is quoted as follows in an interview:

"The campaign in Virginia this year will be a time one. The registration under the new constitution will practically eliminate the negroes, and consequently, there will be little left of the republican voting strength. Judge Rhea, who is in the southwest section of the state, there are many white republicans of influence and respectability, but they are not numerous enough to prevent Judge Rhea receiving a good democratic majority. All over the state the campaign will be one-sided. Its result is already a foregone conclusion and while there will be considerable speaking on the part of the democratic candidates, the latter will have no opposition."

With a result like this to fortify their case, those who are preparing to test the constitutionality of the constitution in the courts will move with the greater earnestness. Eminent lawyers are mentioned in connection with the suit. John S. Wise is one of these, and he says in reply to overtures on the subject:

"You may say to your associates that while I am not fully prepared in their case, I have examined the question sufficiently to feel certain that in proper proceedings the courts will hold that the new constitution of Virginia is not, has never been, and cannot be the lawful constitution of Virginia; that the convention, neither by the popular or legislative authority, had power to proclaim it, and that it will be held a nullity, and all efforts to treat it as valid or binding upon the people of Virginia will be held void."

On the other hand, those who framed the instrument have every confidence in their work, and predict that it will stand any test to which in the courts or elsewhere it may be subjected. Senator Daniel is one of these, and he is a lawyer of high reputation. He is quoted as follows:

"There is no reason for any anxiety about the Virginia constitution. Its ordinance will stand before doubt. The colored people are being misled again, and ought to be warned by the past experience not to be thrown in with the whites. The few who will profit by rousing them up to controversy will be of no permanent service to them, and they will spend their time and labor without any returning benefit. These people have been kind and generous to them and will be themselves stirred to firm action, expediting assaults and misrepresentations."

There has been so much discussion of the laws enacted in the south for the limiting of the suffrage, and their effect on the national situation in Congress and in the electoral college, this purpose of asking a decision of the highest court on the subject fully presented itself everywhere he welcomed. The Virginia case presents some points of interest outside of the question of suffrage. The leading one Mr. Wise mentions in his letter. No opportunity was allowed the people of the state to pass upon the work of the convention which fashioned the new charter, although a promise to that effect stood registered against those who had been most active in having the convention called. A hundred men, who had taken an oath to perform their duties faithfully, crammed ten months of heated discussion into the shape of a state charter under the throats of the whole people by a mere proclamation.

Tillmanism.

Tillmanism seems still to be in the ascendency in South Carolina. The defeat for governor of the senator's nephew does not detract from the truth of this observation. He is of poor quality personally, and cut a very unimpressive figure on the stump. But the men who led in the polling are "wood hat" champions, and represent the order which came in when the Hampton-Butler order went out. The expression thus obtained is entitled to consideration because it is the result of a thorough canvass of the state. Every county was visited by the candidates, and for several months was what Thomas B. Reed calls "a weary war of attrition."

The people here the issues discussed—or rather the personalities that were exchanged—and they voted accordingly. However the second primary may result the first has shown that the seeds sown ten years and more ago are still fruitful. So much the worse for South Carolina.

European countries are apprehensive concerning international commerce. They would be still more so if they were to discover that their products could be purchased abroad for less than they were sold for at home.

The price of bottles has been raised five cents a gross. This leads to some cynic suspicion that the limit of possible profit by adulterating the contents has been reached.

General Miles is of course delighted to go to the Philippines in the pursuit of his chosen profession, and to be freed from the temptations of political embezzlement.

We Can Expand.

Feld Marshal Wolsey gives it as his deliberate judgment that the American army, for its size, is the best in the world. A sound and well-considered opinion from a recognized authority; and it should not be forgotten that our military forces can be enlarged for emergencies.

Stop Harmful Talk.

The report of Prof. Bowen, acting superintendent of public instruction in the city of Washington, to set at rest all the talk about that school system being used as a means toward proselyting native members of the Roman Catholic Church.

Common Sense in Automobiling.

From the Cincinnati Enquirer.

It is hardly necessary for people to abandon the use of automobiles to escape fatal even serious accidents. All they have to do is to exercise as much discretion as is necessary to drive a horse. It is not necessary for an automobilist to outrun a limited express train.

Mimic War.

From the Philadelphia Press.

The mimic war was mimic enough, at all events.

The Enemy's Country.

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supply from the great ranches and packing establishments of the Mississippi valley. The enormous corn crops have had their effect already in stimulating the ranchers to stock up well for the coming season, and to the stock of a great beef packing corporation being organized to fight the newly formed trust is doubtless based in large measure upon the practical certainty that it will be comparatively easy to feed hundreds of thousands of cattle this winter and next spring at prices which will permit a sharp fight for the supply of the market. The public welcome to any sign of a competition between two substantial organizations and hopes that it may be more lasting than is often the case when a newcomer undertakes to rival a great industrial corporation.

It may be that the average purchaser of coal pays very little attention to the precise merits of the controversy between miners and operators. But he looks to the man who owns the mine for his supply of fuel and resents being made an unwilling party by surfeiture to his private purposes of gain.

Mont Pelée having done all possible damage, is still grumbling. There is so little left in Martinique that it seems excusable to give it a wide berth, even at the expense of some scientific information.

President Roosevelt has demonstrated that the ability to make interesting speeches in rapid succession is not the exclusive gift of any individual.

A strike among the oyster men. With coal, meat and oysters all on the prohibitive list of luxuries, there seems to be a prospect of a hard winter.

The Saratoga sandbaggers add to the excitement by making it doubtful whether a man can get away with the money after he has won it.

Mr. Rockefeller while looking for big things to invest his money in concluded to purchase a few mountains.

Devery goes on the principle that in politics as in the theater, the comedian is king.

SHOOTING STARS.

Clinging to Fame.

"Don't you know," said the earnest citizen, "that you could put an end to this public disquiet in a very short time?"

"Of course, I do," answered the influential personage. "At present I occupy a very important position. But after I have ended the matter I won't be anybody in particular, and I hate to be forgotten."

Amenities.

"Miss Gabbins says she loves the truth above all things."

"Yes," answered Miss Cayenne; "she realizes that, as a rule, the truth is the most disagreeable thing you can say about anybody."

A Common Sentiment.

I grieve to see these millionaires Who glitter on the highway Spend money on these fads of theirs. I wish they'd spend it my way.

The Tables Turned.

"Our son Josh don't seem to think much of the way I dress," said Farmer Corn-tassel.

"Nor of my grammar," answered his wife. "It does seem that parents give their children a heap of trouble nowadays."

A Character Analysis.

"Alexander the Great was a wonderful person," remarked Mr. Bilgins. "He was a man after my own heart."

"Isn't he the one who shed tears because there were no more worlds to conquer?" rejoined Mrs. Bilgins.

"He is."

"Well, I never thought much of him. He must have been one of these people who are never happy unless they are complaining about something."

A Sad Little Story.

Murmuring zephyrs, Twinkling stars; Serenaded Light guitar.

Dog in kennel Hears the sound; Wonders who is prowling round.

Lass at window Smiles and sighs; Dog in kennel Says, "I'm wise."

First a swear word, Then a scream At a dog with Teeth a gleam.

Lass is hastening Help to beg; Dog is eating Trouser-leg.

Girl next morning— Miss McGuire— Takes guitar to Build the fire.

Roosevelt's Enemies.

From the Chicago Inter Ocean.

When Theodore Roosevelt took up the burden of his great office he had opponents who honestly believed in him and in the questions of public policy, but he had no enemies. His life was known to be pure and his record clean, and in many diverse departments of public service his efficiency had been proved.

Since then, however, the President has incurred enemies not only menacing in purpose, but also more or less potent for deeds. And how and why has he incurred them? Because he has steadfastly insisted upon the equality of all Americans before the law, upon equality of opportunity so far as the laws can give it or preserve it, and by every means within his power has endeavored to maintain that equality.

The New Litany.

From the New York Herald.

A new line for a litany:—From railroad grade crossings and reckless chauffeurs, good Lord, deliver us.

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Secretary Wilson's hopes that the abundance of corn will reduce the cost of beef may be well founded. But the argument is based on a method of reasoning which prevailed some time before the trusts came into operation.

The Auto Daxger.

The place near Elberon, N. J., where an automobile plunged over a bridge the other day with fatal results is locally known as a point of serious danger. It was formerly an open grade crossing of highway and railway and the bridge was erected to prevent accidents. This fact serves to sharpen the reflection that a new menace confronts the residents of the more populous sections of the country. They have been trying for years to reduce the terrors of the grade crossings, have spent millions in improving and have sought to educate the transportation companies to a realizing sense of their responsibility, with fair success. Just as tracks are being lowered or elevated and streets carried over or under the rails along comes the automobile, with its fascination for the wealthy and its capabilities for excessive speeds, and makes the streets and roads even less safe than they were in the old days for the unguarded railroad tracks. For the railroad is a fixed menace. It is to be encountered only at a certain point. It can be guarded against even when the rails lie bare to the foot of the casual pedestrian. But the automobile is everywhere. Every man that school system being used as a means toward proselyting native members of the Roman Catholic Church.

Here in the District complaints are now being received of excessive speeds by automobiles in Rock Creek park and steps are being taken to catch the offenders. They will perhaps be fined, but there is no guarantee in the ordinary fine that the offense will not be repeated. The man who recklessly ran his machine upon the New Jersey bridge the other day and sent himself and one of his passengers to death had been fined for speeding less than three hours before the accident. Not even the court's admonition that he would some day come to grief through his folly caused him to heed the dictates of ordinary prudence. The fine was pleasure to him, a mere trifling addition to the cost of maintaining an \$800 machine.

Fines for fast and reckless motoring should be cumulative, culminating in a revocation of the license. Here in the District there